



Caring Families Coalition

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Name: Lorri Vilorio

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Hi, my name is Lorri Vilorio and I live and work in Willimantic. I am here today to support Senate Bill 1 but I believe it needs to go further. It needs to truly be comprehensive, quality health care that benefits everyone. We need to go beyond minor changes in income guidelines for existing state health programs.

Many people in Northeast Connecticut have lost their jobs because of plant closings and lay offs. Recently the Franklin Mushroom farm left. This and other lay offs have left hundreds in need of health care benefits. This is why we need universal health care.

There are also people who have health insurance but it is not adequate. Like many people, I have benefits through my job. However, I also have a chronic illness. Because of this, I will reach my maximum health care benefits soon and will then lose coverage. Not only am I worried about that but right now I am worried about health care for myself and my family. If I did what was best for my health, I would quit my job but I cannot quit because if I do I will lose medical benefits for myself and my family. Even though my husband's job offers health care, it costs too much and I would not be able to get on it because I have a preexisting condition. This should not be a decision that people have to make.

Nor should eating or paying for prescriptions. My employer stopped having prescription coverage through private insurance to keep the cost down. Now the employer covers \$2,500 per year, per individual. This works out fine for some people. For me, my prescriptions will soon total \$100,000 per year. I could end up owing over \$95,000 on prescriptions that keep my healthy. This is not affordable so whatever the universal health care plan is, it needs to cover prescriptions for people as well.



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This bill should also include transportation for health care. Like many others throughout Connecticut, I don't drive. Each week I need to get from Willimantic to Farmington for necessary medical treatments. I do not qualify for medical transportation which means one of my family members has to take a day off work to bring me.

These are things that are personal to me. But I think that any plan should also include mental health, long term care, oral health, prevention, and longer stays in hospital.